

## June 20, 2011

*Minutes are subject to the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission.*

**Present:** Chairman Sheila Anson, Commissioners Joe Fredlund, Lou Magnoli, Ray Reich, Tim Cook, C.J. Kersten; Coordinator Lisa Easter; Clerk Mary Anne Greene.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Sheila Anson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. at the Town Beach.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the May 17, 2011 meeting  
by Tim Cook, seconded by Ray Reich and unanimously approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### \* Fireworks:

Ray Reich reported that ticket sales have been slow – hopeful that with the end of school this week they will pick up. Discussion of Commissioner “duties” for the Road Race and fireworks were reviewed. Ray has met with Resident Trooper Sordi who has agreed to reduce the number of State Troopers on duty from 15 to 12 with a Washington Constable on duty. This will be a significant cost savings. Several volunteers may also be utilized to check tickets and direct traffic. Organizations that will be allowed at the Fireworks will be the Fire Department – hamburgers, hot dogs; Rotary – coffee, popcorn, ice cream; Lions Club – glow in the dark necklaces, flags, miscellaneous souvenirs. Porta potties will be delivered on Friday; Oliver’s will provide two dumpsters. Morning after clean up crew volunteers – the more the merrier! Sheila and C.J. will assist Ray with the decision of canceling due to weather. Should they be cancelled, a message will be placed on the Parks and Rec’s answering machine, the sandwich board in front of Town Hall will be put out announcing the cancellation. Mary Anne Greene offered to check with Rocky Tomlinson regarding the use of the ALERT NOW system as well. Hank Ference will again open his field for 10 cars with passes. C.J. Kersten and Tim Cook offered to check the guardrail along the road.

#### \* Beach and Boat Launch:

Sheila reported that First Selectman Lyon had received a call from a Town resident who did not feel that having Robin Delaney’s hot dog cart at the beach was appropriate – did not enhance the “scene”. Robin has been given permission to be there for this season and the situation will be reviewed each year. Sheila asked that the minutes reflect the concern has been noted. There have been questions about the goose droppings and whose responsibility it is to clean it up. When the beach is open – which will be every day beginning this coming weekend – it is the responsibility of the guards. It has also been mentioned that it is difficult to launch kayaks at the launch area. It was agreed that when the Lake’s water level is low it might be difficult unless one “gets their feet wet”. There was discussion of the landscaping/caretaking duties including trimming, weedwacking, weeding. Ray will review with the caretakers. Lisa Easter has contacted the Highway Department regarding the delivery of sand. Boat Launch Director Hank Vallely has notified Lisa Easter that after July 10 he is no longer able to be available on Sunday afternoons. This will be discussed with the Selectmen. It was also suggested that an AED be placed at the beach. This would cost \$1500-\$2000. Lions Club and Village Improvement were possible suggestions for funding this.

#### \* River Walk Park:

The annual Village Improvement Picnic was held last Friday evening at the Pavilion at which the VIS was thanked along with the anonymous fireplace donors for the addition of “warmth and friendship”.

There was discussion that at some point in the future it may be beneficial to separate the groundskeeper's duties from the field maintainer. Tim Cook will check into if the soccer goals have been removed and if not will take care of it. Thank you to Litchfield Bancorp for the donation of a 55-gallon drum, which has been painted by local school children. Tim Cook has been speaking with Eagle Electric regarding electricity to the new scoreboard for the Joe Martin Field. The cost of materials will be approximately \$3000 for a designated line and can also be used to illuminate the flagpole. Poppa Joe has said he would be able to get a donation to match whatever Parks and Rec can contribute to the cost. Motion: To approve an expenditure of \$1000 from Little League for the materials needed to have the scoreboard designated line materials with the understanding that \$1000 will come from a donation through Poppa Joe and the remaining \$1000 from Shepaug Baseball and Softball Association. By C.J. Kersten, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved. Tim Cook will coordinate and have the work done as soon as possible.

\* Five Year Plan:

No report.

\* Youth Work Initiative:

Several applications donations have been received and information gotten to Denise Arturi.

\* Projects:

1) Bocce Court – Joe Fredlund and Terry Tiernan will get all the information this summer.

2) Stove for Pavilion kitchen – Tim Cook will speak with the Fire Department about getting a new stove.

3) Kayaks at town Beach – Lisa Easter has spoken with Town Attorney David Miles as well as the Town's insurance company (see Coordinator's Report below).

Following discussion, Motion:

To approve an expenditure of \$4000 from Boathouse for the purchase of kayaks, paddles and a rack for use at the Town Beach.

By Tim Cook, seconded by Joe Fredlund and unanimously approved.

4) Tables for Pavilion kitchen:

Motion:

To approve an expenditure of up to \$975 for the purchase of two stainless steel tables for use in the Pavilion kitchen.

By Joe Fredlund, seconded by Tim Cook and unanimously approved.

\* Vacancy:

Lou Magnoli expressed his desire to resign at the present time – creating two vacancies on the Commission. Following a lengthy discussion, the Commission regretfully accepted Lou's resignation with the condition he continues as "advisor". The Commissioners unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Laura Eanes Martin and Whitney Ryan be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

## **COORDINATOR'S REPORT:**

Lisa Easter reported:

\* Summer Camps:

Registrations are down except for Multi Sport Camp. Hopeful that the end of school will get people thinking...

\* Gunn Library Summer Reading program has asked for Parks and Rec's support by again donating a gift certificate. As the Commission has done this for several years, it was unanimously agreed to have Lisa get a certificate for Lore's Lanes.

\* Use of Kayaks at the Town Beach:

Lisa has spoken with Town Attorney David Miles – it is his opinion that if the use of the kayak is free, a waiver such as the one provided by the Town's insurance company is signed, use would be by persons 16 years of age or older and a pfd is worn, it should be OK to provide kayaks at the beach. They will be stored on a rack and locked. Paddles, pfds will be stored in the office.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**CHARIMAN'S REPORT:**

Sheila Anson reported:

\* Thank you to Village Improvement Society for another successful picnic and all their contributions to the Town. Thank you to Peter Houldin for his term as president and congratulations to C.J. Kersten for taking on the position.

\* Thank you to Lou Magnoli for his years of service, advice, all he has added to the Commission, his voice of reason and for being a great addition :)!!!

\* Speedy recovery to Jack Muckstadt.

\* From those present....HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHEILA!!

**Adjournment:**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anne Greene  
Clerk